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SIPDIS

FOR I/FW, B/G, IIP/G/NEA-SA, B/VOA/N (BANGLA SERVICE) STATE FOR
SA/PAB, SA/PPD (LSCENSNY), SA/RA, INR/R/MR, AND PASS TO USAID FOR
ANE/ASIA/SA/B

CINCPAC FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR, J51 (LCDR FLETCHER), J45
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SUBJECT: Media Reaction: Aftermath of Katrina; Dhaka

Summary: An op-ed page article in Bangla "Naya Diganta" says that the order to shoot in hurricane hit areas in the U.S. would have been considered a license to extrajudicial murder if any third World country had done this in a similar situation.

Aftermath of Katrina

"Hurricane Katrina: Oh! Human Rights, Oh! Extrajudicial Killing"
An op-ed article in Bangla language newspaper "Naya Diganta" by
Dr. Rezwan Siddiqui opines (9/6):

Two issues need to be pointed out. First, baby foods could not be provided even five days after the disaster. Distressed people could not be rescued and food and water could not be provided to them. An unknown number of women were raped. Were not their human rights violated? It has been alleged that blacks were ignored. How could the U.S. administration deny this allegation? If it denies, it will have to think ten times before saying minorities in other countries are being oppressed and discriminated. Members of security forces have been ordered to shoot to prevent looting and any violations of law and order. If anyone dies, will it not be an extrajudicial murder? Why do Britain and the European Union remain silent?

If any developing nation faces such a situation, western nations would have raised hue and cry about violations of human rights and racial discrimination. They would say that minority people were being neglected. They would threat to impose economic and political punishments. We believe that they have now realized the real situation. When nature acts adversely and natural disaster devours everything, then the richest and most powerful nations, like the U.S., becomes helpless. In such a situation, a third world nation becomes more helpless. What will lawyers like Dr. Kamal Hussein do now? Will they prepare list of extrajudicial murders in the U.S. and distribute in various countries in the world?

We are sure that the U.S. administration has ordered to shoot looters to save the innocent and helpless people. The most immediate task now is to save helpless people. There is no time think about extrajudicial murder. Many nations in the developing world have issued such orders to save the public. We hope western nations do not consider that extrajudicial murder.

Chammas